

Editorial Preface

Change Happened, Now What Challenges Follow and Why

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JOURNAL CHANGES

It is an often reused axiom to say change is inevitable; nevertheless change has occurred in many ways over the last 10 years everywhere around the world. We experienced COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, financial volatility, climate change, and political instability (i.e. global terrorism).

More to the point, I am retiring after 10 rewarding years leading the *International Journal of Risk & Contingency Management* (IJRCM). I am very happy with my wonderful 10+ year tenure at IJRCM and with many years of career success; now I feel it is time to give someone else an opportunity to try this job. Therefore, after careful analysis of potential candidates, I am promoting Managing Editor Dr. Rao Vajjhala to Editor-in-Chief (EIC), effective volume 11 issue 1 in 2022. This was a result of practicing contingency planning, and more specifically, succession planning. To help, I will stay on at IJRCM as chair of the International Advisor Board, to continue to support our new EIC and further improve IJRCM.

As a quick reflection, I created this journal during 2010 with an application to IGI-Global, which was eventually accepted in 2011, and we published our first issue in 2012. From there my editorial team and I went on to make IJRCM a success! It has been wonderful working with the proactive team at IGI-Global. The eDiscovery manuscript system has developed into a world class product, and likewise, IGI-Global have grown from new kid on the block to one of the best and most reputable publishers in the world.

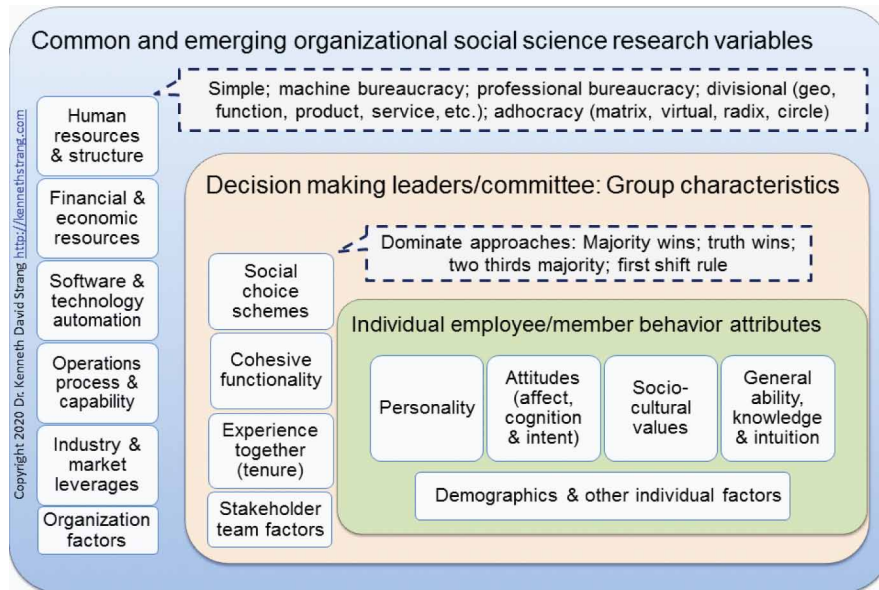
GLOBAL CHANGES

I now want to turn our attention to scholarly writing, in terms of what we can do further. I ask you to submit papers to IJRCM which introduce new practice ideas or build on the provocative conceptual propositions discussed during the last 10 years, as articulated in the editorials, specifically Strang (2018). Our immediate need is to publish broad conceptual papers to stimulate more empirical research. However, empirical qualitative and quantitative studies will also be welcomed.

Here is something for scholars and researchers to think about. I offer two dichotomous themes to impel your motivation, as succinctly summarized below. I hope my preliminary conceptual model in figure 1 will trigger your creative scholarly thinking and to appease visual learning styles.

One theme is forward-looking, grounded on this research question: What do or should decision makers do in the new global organizational norm plagued by the corona virus pandemic recovery, worldwide economic volatility, and climate change, along with socio-political domestic and international terrorism? Keeping in mind the conceptual model of figure 1, I visualize papers discussing what are the new strategic human resource social-psychology models or typologies; what new constructs do we need in software, information technology and process improvement; which industry or market factors are impacting decision making behaviour at the group and or individual levels of analysis? The answers to this ultimatum will become scholarly propositions and hopefully preliminary research designs to instigate novel studies of decision making risk and contingency management in our future society.

Figure 1. Proposed conceptual risk and contingency decision making variables to study



The second theme is based on this research question: How can scholars study the emerging variables from figure 1 or other factors you will argue (grounded in the literature of course)? I imagine these papers will evaluate who, where, what, when, why and how in future research designs, or at least some of those elements. Here I anticipate research proposals for exploring, evaluating and examining the broad field of decision making or process improvement in the risk and contingency management discipline. Every organization of any size faces risks, manages within at least some uncertainty, and makes implicit and or explicit decisions to achieve the mission, goals and objectives. What I am asking is propose studies of this and explain why they are needed, which population will be sampled, and so on. Your answers to this theme will help emerging and seasoned scholars to design as well as execute new studies.

As you can see, this call for papers is asking you to think outside the box, to tell us what matters, what needs to be researched, rather than lock scholars into a corner with dated literature reviews of a specific topic. I call upon you to carry the torch of risk and contingency decision making knowledge to the next level of success. Help us advance the state-of-the-art in the organizational process risk and contingency management discipline, across all industries and sectors.

Please consider the guiding questions below.

How do people in non-profit, government, public institutions and private companies make decisions in high-risk situations (such as lives being at stake) or in ethical dilemmas (when there is no right solution)? How do executives make strategic decisions in crisis situations (such as terrorism) or in ethical dilemmas (rationing pension funds or healthcare provisions)? How are the major global crises (e.g., terrorism, economic instability) and natural disasters (flooding, global warming, hurricanes/cyclones) impacting decision making and strategic management?

How do operational managers make decisions across the disciplines of business administration, manufacturing operations, supply chain management, human resource management, marketing, client relationship management, product/service design, financial management, investment portfolio management, project management, training/education, workplace health and safety, procurement, transportation, accounting and others? How are decisions made and how effective are the results, within the primary and secondary industries? How are decisions analyzed, alternatives selected and

solutions developed/implemented in agriculture, fishing, forestry, farming, petrochemical refining, mining, water conservation, information technology (manufacturing and consulting), pharmaceutical/drug, military, border/national security, emergency services, retail, education, and so on. How does decision making differ between industries and cultures?

How do teams prepare the analysis for decision making? What are the behaviors of decision makers and decision-making teams? How effective is the leadership in all of the above disciplines? What are the emerging resource management and organizational behavior factors that are impacting decision making within strategic management around the world?

What are the approaches and effectiveness at different levels of analysis: individual, group, company-wide, national (country), industry-wide and globally? What personality and socio-cultural factors impact decision making executives, managers and teams? How well are decisions implemented by followers and other stakeholders?

What research methods and tools can be used to research strategic management, analysis and decision making, at various levels of analysis? What is needed to extend the body of knowledge in strategic management analysis and decision making – and why? What are the relevant theories and models underlying these topics?

What are the contemporary applications and practices in these disciplines? Is there empirical qualitative or quantitative (or mixed) evidence demonstrating certain theories or practices work or do not work, perhaps within new contexts or experiments?

Which models and approaches can be used singularly or integratively to study analysis and decision making within and across the disciplines, industries, sectors and national cultures? What is missing in the current state-of-the-art for making decisions and implementing the chosen solutions - and why?

We welcome all research methods and techniques across the spectrum of ideologies from positivistic through pragmatistic and constructivistic (see Strang, 2015), such as: Experiments, surveys, literature reviews, critical analysis, general analytics, single/multiple case studies, structural equation modeling, group comparisons, grounded theory, phenomenology, teaching case notes (as well as any other recognized formal method).

To be successful, you must write well, and follow the IJRCM writing style. To illustrate IJRCM form, style and scholarly writing expectations, see for example the papers by Losha, Strang and Vajjhala (2017) or Strang and Vajjhala (2015).

I will prioritize high quality writing with good scholarly look-and-feel papers. I note this is a departure from asking for empirical studies, as I normally do with IJRCM. However, we continue to accept empirical quantitative and qualitative studies. Visit our IJRCM site on IGI-Global where there are free samples, guidelines, and the submission link is near the top: <http://kennethstrang.com/ijrcm>

Feel free to email your new EIC, Dr. Vajjhala, if you have questions — or ideas. You do not need to upload a proposal prior to submitting the paper, but you may submit your research question(s), title or abstract if you wish to have preliminary feedback.

It is 100% free and safe to publish in IJRCM, we are a reputable journal on whitelists, and well-indexed! To submit an article (you need a userid): www.igi-global.com/submission/manuscripts/?jid=53135

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